HOON CLOTHING

Present the new **International range**

Brazil (away)

Italy (home)

Brazil (home)

Russia (away)

Russia (home)

Peru (home)

Italy (away)

Ireland (home)

Ireland (away)
Holland (away)

Holland (home)

Barca (home)
Juve (home)

name
address

postcode tel no.

Shirt Size

New exclusive styles
only £29.99
(+ £1.70 p&p)

TOP QUALITY 100% BEST COTTON

RETURN TO: 137 Custard Factory, Gibb St,
Digbeth, Birmingham, B9 4AA.
Cheques/Postal Orders payable to 'Hoon Clothing'

24 hr creditcard hotline: (0121 244 6116)
General enquiries (0402 071967)

VISA DELTA MasterCard

For fans who've got the Blues

WAKE UP Blue ©

£1.00

Steve sees light at the end of the tunnel!!

WAKE UP BLUE

editor:
Steve Caffery

features editor:
Dave Branwood

photography:
Andy Shaw

design:
the hoon bros.

writers:
JamesBrown,John Tandy, Rhythm and Blues, The Doc,Bleu Royale

respect to:
James Prosser, Ian Middleton, Brucie, the bag boys.

inspiration:
The Zulu Army

Address:
137 Custard Factory
Gibb Street
Digbeth
Birmingham
B9 4AA

telephone:
0121 244 6116
04020 71967

fax:
0121 244 5115

Voted TOP 10 FANZINE 1996 - *Four, Four, Two*

FANZINE OF THE MONTH, April 96 - *Four, Four, Two*

BRITAINS WORST FANZINE - *Gareth Southgate's mum*

contents

BRUCE LOOSE!

TAIT WHAT YOU DO

DEAR DIARY

GAG OF WEEK

FIT BIRD

A BIRDS VIEW OF FOOTBALL

BILLY BLUE

GIVE US A GOAL

LETTERS

BACK ISSUES NOW AVAILABLE NO.8,9,10,12, 13,14 ONLY. PLEASE SEND LARGE SAE ENVELOPE TO W.U.B ADDRESS PLUS CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER FOR £1.00.

DISCLAIMER

WAKE UP BLUE IS AN INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE AND THEREFORE IS NOT AN OFFICIAL VIEW OF BIRMINGHAM CITY. ARTICLES AND LETTERS PRINTED WITHIN ARE THE VIEWS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS, AND AS SUCH DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE EDITOR OR THE CLUB. IF YOU DISAGREE WITH ANYTHING WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION, FEEL FREE TO WRITE IN AND OFFER YOUR VIEWS. THIS MAGAZINE EXISTS TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR DEBATE FOR BIRMINGHAM CITY FANS EVERYWHERE.

EDITORIAL

About bloody time! A 4-1 victory last week-end gave us something we've been waiting for all season- good football, commitment and GOALS! I'm not going to go overboard about the victory because Reading are a crap team and with the money we've spent on the play-er's we've got it is a result we should be expecting.

Some of you might think that I am being harsh and fair enough, I AM! For too long Blues fans have had to put up with watching shite, listening to excuses and still be expected to turn up at 3 o'clock and part with their hard earned cash. It's about time us and the owners had a return on the money we've spent. The squad T.F has assembled should be taking teams like Reading apart every week. The better teams of the division we should at least be matchingand on occassions we've proved we can. We 've already beaten Bolton who in my opinion will win the title comfortably.

Yet time after time we hear Steve Bruce saying in the Argus, 'we can still make the play-offs' and Francis saying 'if we had a player amongst the top goalscorers we'd be in the top 3' etc... I don't want to hear it! There should never have been a reason for such things to be said in the first place. We've spent big money, got a good stadiun, superb support and Premiership quality in players and management yet we're still expected to keep our expectations to that of the Barnsley's and Stoke's of this world injust reaching the play-offs? I'm afraid not.

There is absolutely no reason why we should not get up this season and sorry if I'm already starting to speak in the past tense, but it's going to be a hard struggle even to make the play-offs.

At the back we've been sound and as any fol lower of football will tell you all good champi-onship winning teams are based on a good defence. Unfortunately up front we haven't managed to capitalise on this and scoring 28 goals at this stage of the season is a disgrace considering the money we've spent. And I am afraid it's not a matter of fine tuning. Another striker will have to be bought this season or next, no matter what division we are in because it is painfully obvious we do not have the fire power of other teams prepared to challenge for destination Premiership.

That's why I won't go overboard about beating Reading.

Right, here's the good news... and the bad news. As you can see we've given Wake Up Blue another facelift and made it better with an extra 8 pages of colour, better layout and some new writers . We aren't stopping there though and have got other special features in the pipeline that will be revealed shortly. From next issue though, the price is going up to £1.20 which is due to the fact of printing costs having risen in the New Year. We've keep this issue's price at a quid though as a thank you gesture to you lot who keep buying it and we hope you agree it's still value for money at £1.20. We're certain it is, as unlike other publications we don't sell a photocopied, non stapled, non colour, thin fanzine and ask you for a quid. That's why we're the BEST and most popular independent Blues mag around...

DEAR DIARY

7 dec

The return of Kevin Francis, a buzz goes round the ground. I think it's a 96, or maybe a 97.
Bottom of the table Grimsby. The team who once employed a player called Dobbin and whose current best player is called Mendonkey. I reckon Brian Laws broke Bonetti's jaw for not making that save against West Germany in the 1970 World Cup. We draw 0-0.

14 dec

Match postponed.

20 dec

"Twelve quid each to get into Southend??"
"that's what every single Brummie's said to me tonight"

24 dec

Dear Santa, what I'd really like for Christmas is for Mark McGhee to lose his job in a match fixing/sex/betting/drugs scandal.

25 dec

Damn. Socks again.

28 dec

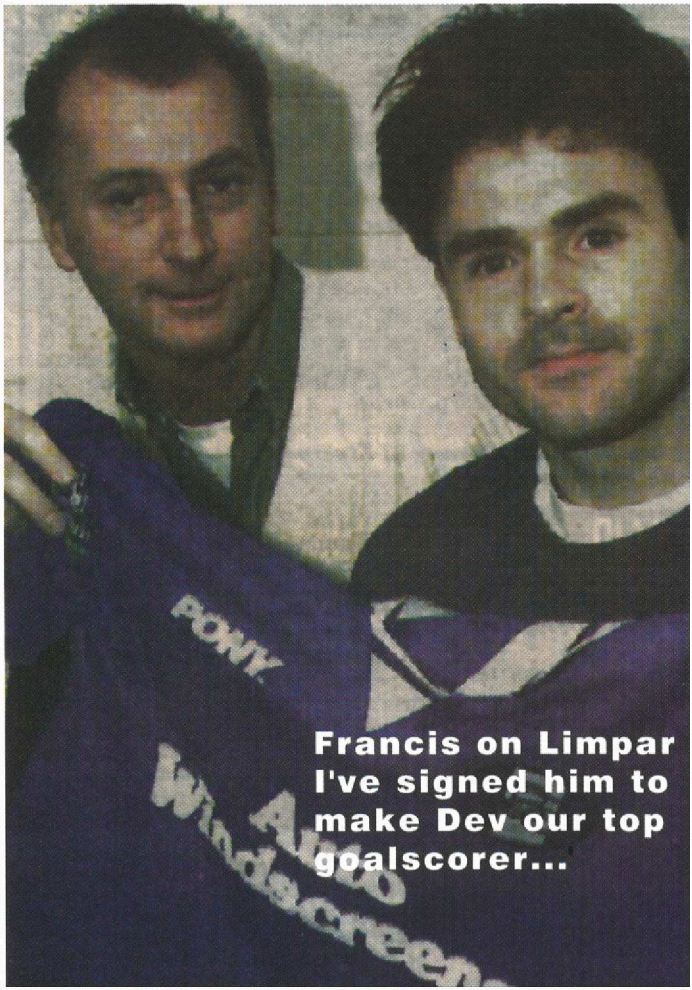
I'm spending the Festive Season in sunny Minehead. it's a bit like Northfield, only there's a beach. Tomorrow's "West Match: Live is Blues against Tranmere. Well I suppose Tr0anmere's in the west, if you look hard enough.

29 dec

Match postponed. HTV treat us to half an hour of Bristol Rovers highlights and a Bob Hope movie. Guess which has got the most action.

1 jan

Happy New Year. Match postponed.
I was hoping we'd get to play this one before Charismatic Frank gets to weave hi s own brand of magic around Maine Road...Spare a thought for the people outside Brum who travel to the home games. every match postponed turns a Saturday - afternoon-jaunt-into a midweek dash-from-work-and-get-back-home-in-the-early-hours-of-the-morning-night-mare.
Of course, that Trading Standards fine would have paid for another couple of hot air balloons on the pitch, which could potentially have rescued at least one of those Christmas fixtures.
Still games in hand, they're like points in the bank...
Spare a thought for the people outside Brum who travel to the home games. every match postponed turns a Saturday - afternoon-jaunt-into a midweek dash-from-work-and-get-back-home-in-the-early-hours-of-the-morning-night-mare.
Of course, that Trading Standards fine would have paid for another couple of hot air balloons on the pitch, which could potentially have rescued at least one of those Christmas fixtures.



DEAR DIARY

4 jan

Stevenage's attempt to hack their way into the Fourth Round comes unstuck, in spite of the best efforts of referee and both linesman.
Stevenage bring their own P.A which means we are forced to suffer the indignity of running out to "We are the Champions". You could hear it on "Match of the Day" as well. I think David Sullivan should write to Des Lynam denying all knowledge. Ban shite Queen tunes from the nation's football grounds, that's what I say.
Still they played The Clash at half-time, so it wasn't all bad. Best bit of the game was referee pierce jumping in the air to rebuke Kevin Francis after his eyeball-to-nipple confrontation with Efetober Sodje. At least, I think that's his name- you can never be sure with a Blues programme.

5 jan

A quick glance through the Stevenage programme reveals no less than 19 mentions of either Kidderminster or Altrincham- most of them telling us how it's all a long time ago and completely forgotten now...

10 jan

A visit to Stoke ice rink sees us lose 1-0 to a clinical finish off Wallace's shin. Blues lack ideas and innovation, a bit like a footballing version of the Tory Party. Sheron is quiet and doesn't score. Yep, he'll soon be travelling down the M6.

17 jan

We sign Anders Limpar. Great, that means with Paul Furlong, we've got a Swede and Turnip up front.

18 jan

Blues score 4 goals to beat Reading. I have to go home and lie down.

kits time FOR CHANGE!

I recently read a report that said that £1 Billion a year, or £95 per second, was being spent on replica football kits.

The arguments about this being a rip off are well documented, but whilst the kit in itself is no doubt over priced, I think that it is down to the individual whether or not they wish to buy them, and there's no doubt that at the moment they are a fashionable garment and a money maker for clubs.

Where I do have a problem, though, is in the use of the away kit. For the first time in years, Blues have in my opinion a reasonable away top, so I bought one of the red and black ones.

There are perhaps 9 clubs who wear blue at home, so Blues will be forced to change. Where possible, I prefer us to wear our traditional blue and white (if not black) away from home, but again I would accept that it is reasonable to wear the away kit at other venues. But what happens at Oxford (colours yellow and black)? No home shirt, no away shirt but the new third shirt!

This was a policy last year in cup competitions when at least we had a few games where the grey strip was worn. But this season, I cannot see any games where the blue home or red away strips could not be worn.

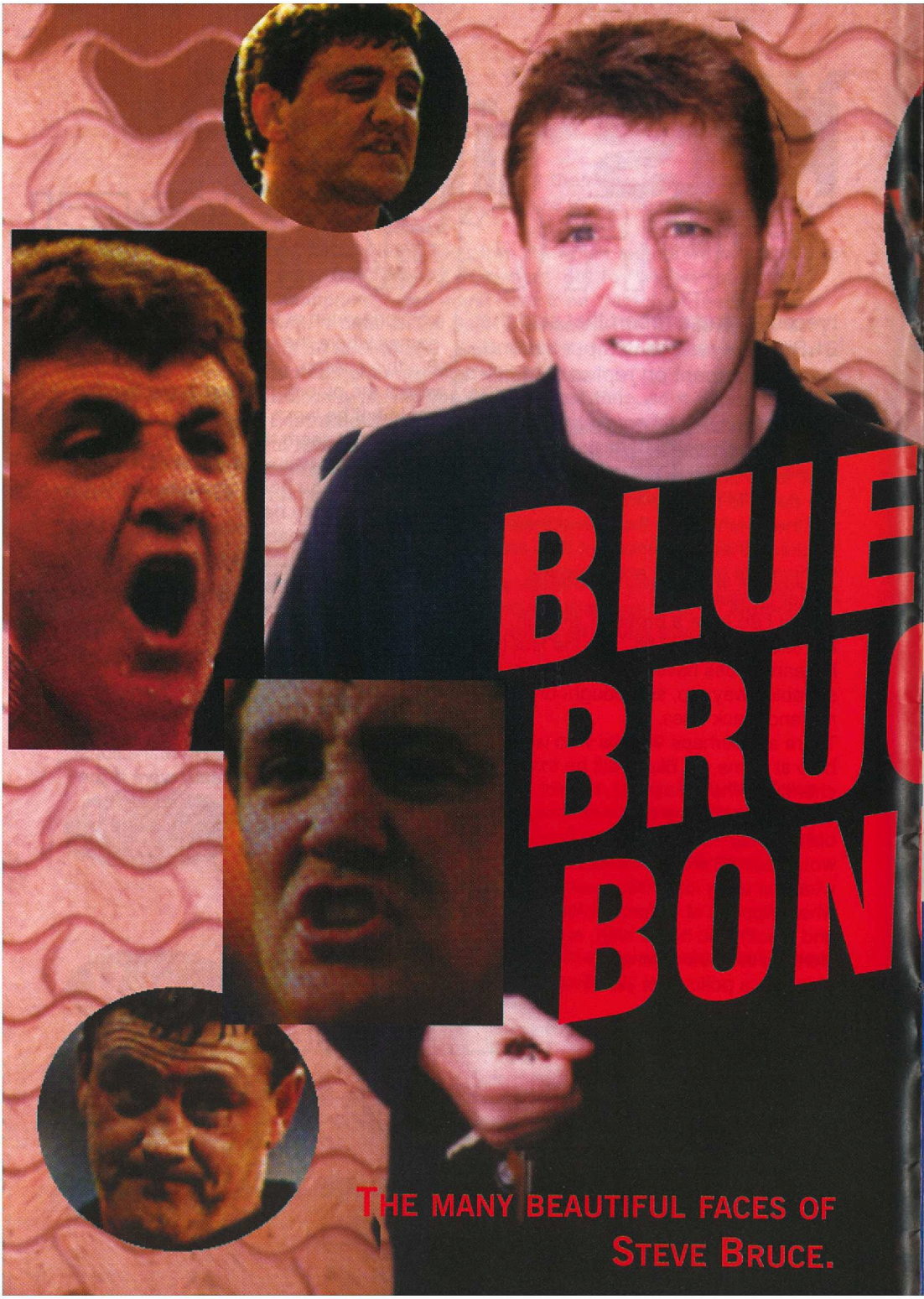
So it would seem that the only reason the third strip was worn was to maximise its sales. If you bought a red strip- hard luck, it may only be worn by the team a few times this season, and not necessarily again.

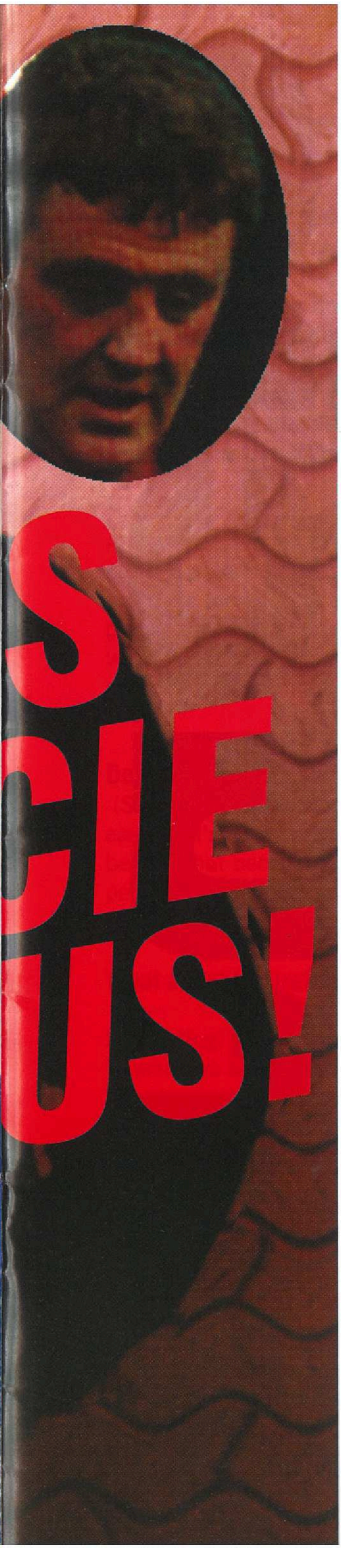
Blues have had far too many strip changes in recent years, and none of them what the fans really want- the blue and white penguin. But I had to laugh at the clubs justification for the new third strip- to save supporters money, this one is £4 cheaper than the other two! thanks a lot! Spend £34 to save £4! Marvellous!

The away strip that we really want is the one that we actually win games in- the same year that Gazza wins husband of the year and Savo wins Europe's Golden boot!

Jim Docherty.

Blues have had far too many strip changes in recent years, and none of them what the fans really want- the blue and white penguin.


BLUE
BRU
BON
THE MANY BEAUTIFUL FACES OF
STEVE BRUCE.



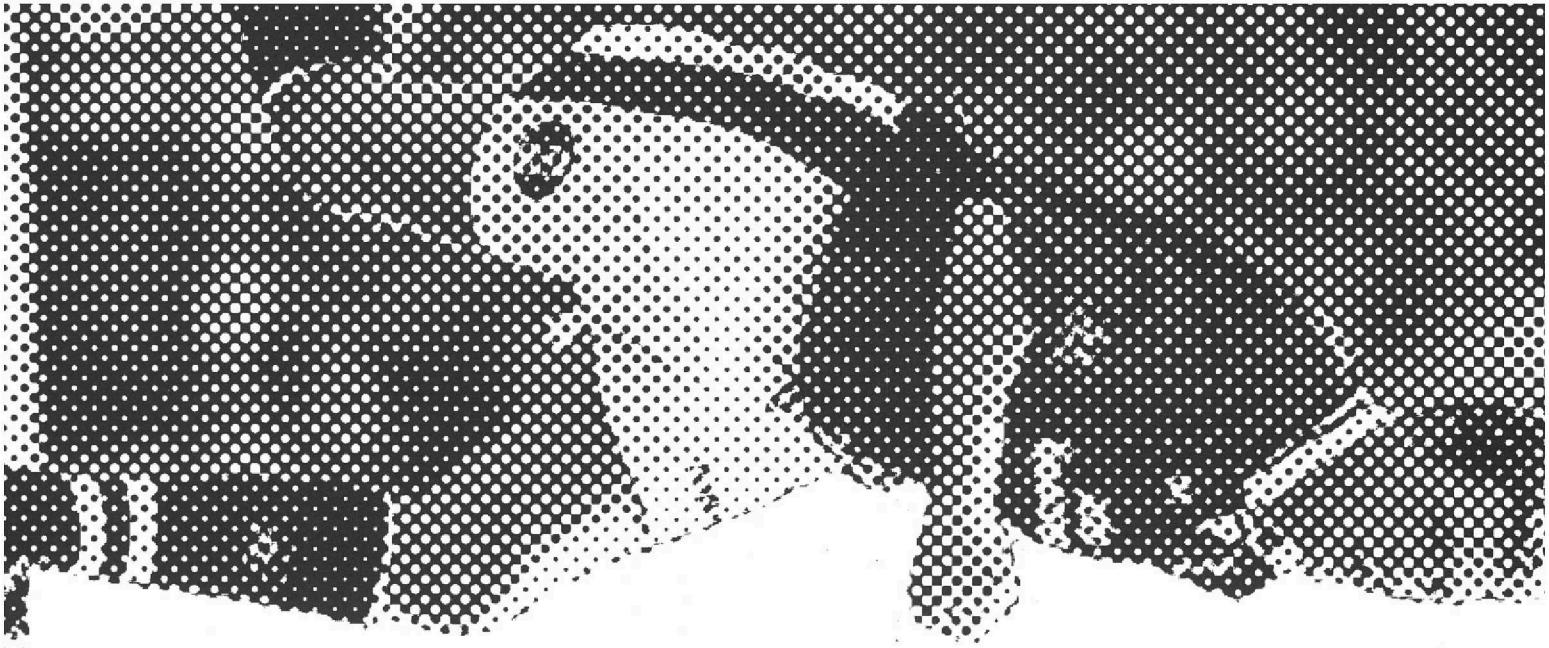
S CIE US!

It was third time lucky for Wake Up Blue when we interviewed our star player, Steve Bruce. After hiding from us on 2 previous occasions, there was no escape for him as our intrepid reporter cornered him as he came out of the laundry room at St. Andrews. Steve Caffery spoke to him about the Blues management job, his penalty taking and Peter Schmiechel's nose...

WUB

Right first things first...
What are your New Year wishes?

Well on a football front I hope we keep progressing and put a decent run together because I think if you look at the league if we do just that we'll be there or there abouts.



Brucie

Is it an automatic come down coming from United to Blues?

A Come down? I think coming down from United and going anywhere is inevitably a come down but I'm enjoying it at the Blues, I'm enjoying the support and one thing I know about this place it's got terrific support and that definitely helps.

Are there any players at Blues who would break into Man U's current squad?

Any players here who could break into the current squad? (It might be just me but for a minute Steve looks as if I'm taking the piss) I think Jason Bowen on his day is a very very good player and I think he's the one who could do it if I had to pick just one.

Do you find it much easier playing...
(Steve quickly interrupts)No it's not much easier. It's never easy. It's a myth to believe that because it's not true because people want to prove a point to you. Every game is hard no matter who you play.

What about frustrating?

Frustrating? No, I haven't been frustrated. I mean I've been frustrated at the number of games we could have won and we haven't but everybody gets a bit like that now and again.

Are you going to take anymore penalties for us?

No. Definitely not!

Are you surprised you haven't scored yet?

I know, it's been a long time since I've scored. I mean I've had a few chances early on. A few headers have hit the bar and post but usually I save one for an important game so I hope there's one around the corner.

Are reports of your weekly salary grossly over exaggerated?

Grossly.

Can I have a fiver?
(Steve laughs)

How do you rate Gary Breen?

Gary Breen is a young lad, an Irish international as we all know and he's got a chance. He's very comfortable on the ball, he's still very young and he's got a lot of talent.

Do you argue with Ian Bennett as often as you did with Schmiechel?

"AT THE MOMENT I'D BE DELIGHTED IF WE GET INTO THE PLAY-OFFS"

No. Ian Bennett just laughs at me. He's not the same aggressive sort as Schmiech's and I'm not frightened of him like I am of big Peter.

Who's got the redder nose Schmiechel or Rudolph?

(Laughs). No comment!

Would you describe yourself now as an ardent bluenose?

I would say for any club I play for I try and I think supporters realise that people like a trier and I give it my best shot, so I hope I become one of them, yeah.

What do you think the chances are this season of some silverware coming to St. Andrews this season?

Well we've got a chance. I mean at the moment I'll be delighted if we get into the promotion play offs. I mean with all said and done we've got to get to the play offs at the end of the season and I think we'll be delighted with that because after 15th last year it will be a major improvement. You know, there's been a lot of changes and a lot of new faces and it will take a little bit of time so if we get there I'll be quite happy.

How do you find the rivalry between Blues and Villa compared to United/City?

Well there's rivalry and rivalry and I realise here that the Blues and the Villa have one second to none. I mean it's as simple as that. of course United have City and everybody hates United don't they?

Yeah I do!

Can we get up automatically?

We've got a chance as I said to you before if we improve and I feel we're gradually improving and if we believe in ourselves we've definitely got a chance.

Are you looking to continue playing when your current deal expires or are you looking to get into management?

I've got 18 months left though some say I should be going into management now after the way I've been playing but I'll see, I love playing and I'll see how the legs are this time next year and I'll sit down and think about it. Once I feel I can't do a job I'll call it a day.

How do you react to people saying you are the next Birmingham City management in waiting?

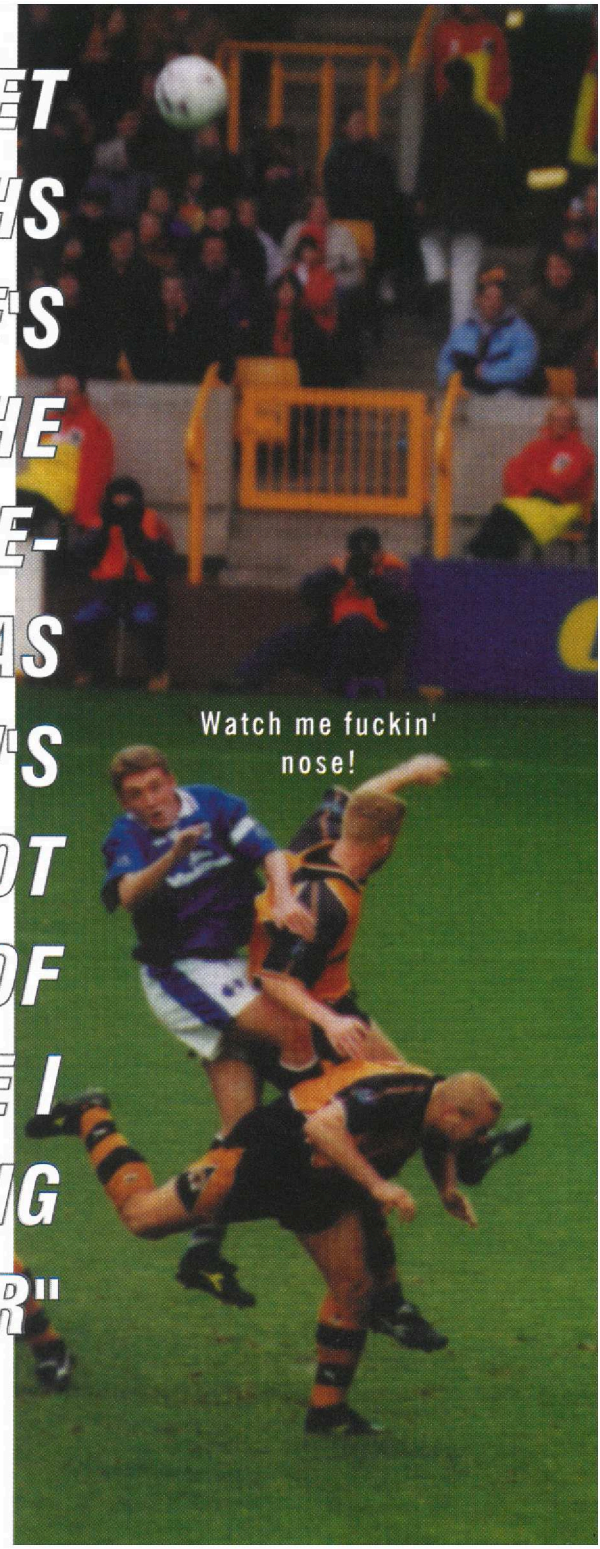
Well that's hypothetical. I mean I came here because Trevor Francis came here and it's as simple as that.

How big do you find Blues as a club?

Blues as a club are massive. Potentially they are massive because what you've got to remember you still get 25000 and have never won anything in your history.

BRUCE ON MANAGEMENT- "*I'LL SEE HOW THE LEGS ARE THIS TIME NEXT YEAR AND I'LL SIT DOWN AND THINK ABOUT IT*"

"IAN BENNET JUST LAUGHS AT ME...HE'S NOT THE SAME AGGRE-SIVE SORT AS SCHMIECH'S AND I'M NOT SCARED OF HIM LIKE I AM OF BIG PETER"



Watch me fuckin' nose!

©

WUB

The facts are dismal before last weeks shock rout of Reading we had scored, 24 goals in 24 games. A dreadful run in which 11 goals have come from our top goalscorer and 12 games have been played without us scoring(four at home). What makes the situation such an absolute bastard is that we have the best defensive record in the league. What makes it truly amazing is that our manager was one of the greatest forwards the world has ever seen yet still can't grasp how poor we are as an attacking force...

Trev might be right saying "If we had a goalscorer we'd be in the top 3 now" but we haven't so we're not and Francis must take some of the blame. He gambled a lot of money on the Newell/Furlong partnership he described as"potentially the best strike force in the division", and it hasn't worked. They have been bad buys. Newell won't play for the club and Furlong can't score for the club. A record 1.5 million pound investment in the Chelsea hitman, demands more than a paltry eight goal return at this stage of the season. Sadly he is just not up to it. Tagged "the Jason Lee of the South" by Chelsea supporters, it is easy to see by his performances why - gives 100% but shit. He always does give his all, but his finishing to put it politely is woeful. It's safe to say that he won't be the man who gets the goals to get us up this this season.

It's unfair though to put all the blame on Furlong though. The midfield's efforts to get the team on the scoresheet have been apalling, especially in the absence of Jonathon Hunt. When Martin O'Conner arrived his impact was immediate. He not only scored on his debut but was the first Blues player from central midfield to score a goal for the club. He arrived in November. It is now January and still remains top of the midfield scoring charts. It is easy to see why Paul Tait, Chris Holland and Barry Horne have all failed to score a mere one goal between them. Horne never shoots . Holland can't shoot and Tait doesn't get in the positions to shoot.

And what of the others?

Francis claims Devlin is the "best finisher in the club" yet always seems to be one of the first to give way in team change abouts. This happening despite Dev being our best player and top goalscorer this season. What does he have to do to prove himself. Is Devlin's treatment another case of bad management? I think so.

Kevin Francis's abilities were perfectly summed up against Stevenage- scoring one and missing two sitters. Yet I'd still wager a bet that he'll score more goals than Furlong by the end of the season.

Even the defence should not go uncriticised. Bruce scored sackfuls of goals for a

All we are saying is...

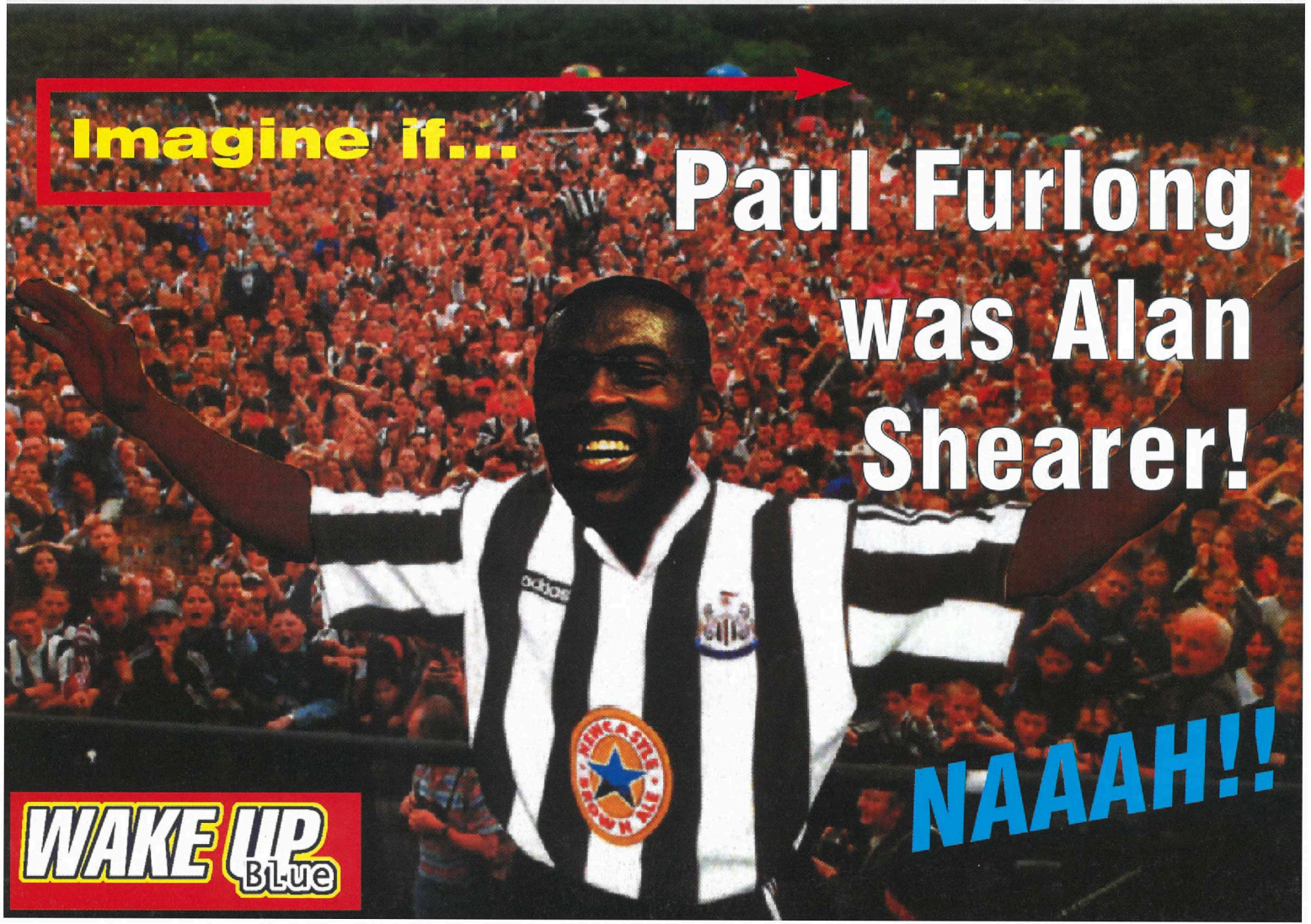
"GIVE US SO

defender whilst with United, yet has only a penalty miss to show for his efforts with Blues.
Pushing him up front against Stoke for the last 5 minutes showed how desperate our goal search has become.
Yet Francis has failed to act. And now it's too late.
It was patently obvious that something had to be done BEFORE Christmas yet we still don't have anybody up front to do the business with Dev. I hope I'm wrong but a 4-1 victory against Reading doesn't make the garden at St. Andrews rosy.
The Blues board has to pay at least another 2 million pound to make it bloom.
A quality striker has to be bought. Not a hasbeen from the Premier or an unknown from Scandinavia; we've been down those roads already. Someone young, ambitious and talented at thumping the ball past a helpless keeper every week. Mr. Sheron, the No.9 shirt awaits your arrival.

HUB

Doh! Missed Again!

ME GOALS!!!


Imagine if...
Paul Furlong was Alan Shearer!
NAAAH!!
WAKE UP BLue

Plastic Surgery Clinic

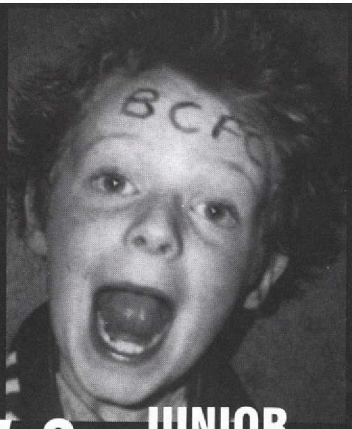
Just Look at the results! We can fix anything (apart from Gareth Southgate's face.)

BEFORE

AFTER!!

Blue Scope

I noticed after Keegan did a runner from the Toon, ITN did a piece on football managers under pressure. Who did they highlight? Bazza and Terry Cooper. It shows what the Blues can do to you? Keegan should count himself lucky- Being the King of the Blue's Kop probably would have seen him carried out in a body bag...



BILLY *BLUE!* & JUNIOR BILLY *BLUE!*

REGULAR READERS WILL HAVE NOTICED THAT LAST ISSUE'S PHOTO OF BILLY'S SON, BILLY JNR, MESSED UP. WE SINCERELY APOLOGISE TO THE BLUE FAMILY AND BRING THEM TOGETHER IN THIS TOUCHING PHOTO. THIS WEEK THE GROUNDSTAFF AT ST. ANDREWS FEEL BILLY'S NEW YEAR SPIRIT...

Right, who was it who said to pour hot water on the pitch to defreeze the it for the Man City game! What a fucking arsewipe!

It's the sort of thing I'd suggest and I've got an excuse- I'm a raging alcoholic and completely full of shit. It seems that the groundsman must be to. He must have got a GCSE physics grade lower than a dead chimp's.

I was surprised he managed to order a pitch saving balloon that worked. I thought he would have gone and got some wank over inflated bin bag. Talking of that I gobshite Branson, what a c**t he is, eh! He looks like a fucking paed..(medication time Bill!-ed)

This week's 'Southgate of the Week' is Damian McKay from Tamworth, sent in by his wife's friend,Sharon Guy. According to Sharon, it 'works' at Dunlop and it reckons that without the glasses it's a dead ringer for James Dean! The dodgy anorak it's got is a fashion classic that can be found in the Villa Village-Idiot shop. Apparently this retard claims to be a Villa fanatic but it hasn't seen them play once in three seasons. It also believes that Savo will prove himself better than Shearer....

SOUTHGATE

James fucking Dean? I don't remember him having a mekon slaphead, brown glasses from Spec savers, a bum fluff beard and a jacket that looks like a two tone bin bag. This bloke is about as fucking cool as a used tampax! What a c**t.

OF THE WEEK!

10 Things you'd rather be doing than being down St Andrews on a Saturday...

1. Shagging ~~Pauline~~ Tiffany out of EastEnders.
2. Collecting the winnings of National Lottery's Top Prize.
3. Going on an all-dayer completely paid for by your mates.
4. Getting on a plane to Barbados.
5. Shooting Noel Edmonds.
6. and beating the shit out of Mr Blobby.
7. Shagging Savo's missis whilst he's ~~missing~~ playing.
8. Blowing up the Holte.
9. Smashing up Nigel Kennedy's set of violins.
10. Drinking loads of lager, taking loads of drugs and pretending that Blues are really good.

Rumour Factory

We hear on the grapevine that Blues are planning to table a bid for James Quinn. A good investment for a million pounds we say. Though probably a better investment would have been to have kept him in the first place!

Gag of the week

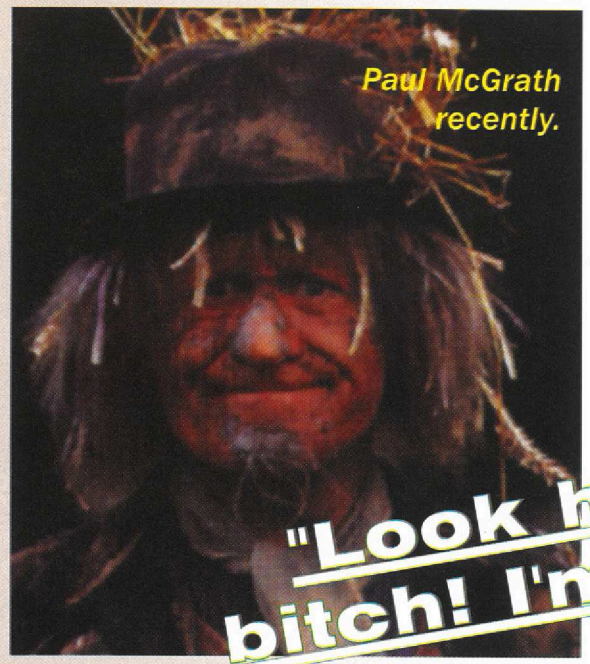
St. Andrews was burgled last week. Thieves broke into the club's trophy room and managed to escape unnoticed.
Police are looking for a man with a roll of Blue Carpet. BOOM BOOM.

The insane world of Mr James Brown...

GYPSIES, CURSES, DRUNKEN STEWARDS, EIGHT BOTTLES OF WHISKY CHASER, IT CAN ONLY BE OUR RESIDENT EXPERT ON ALL THINGS MENTAL AND MYSTICAL... MR JAMES BROWN

VOODOO!!!

It was fucking freezing! I was stood outside the Blues ground in just my underwear and an oversized multi coloured Bobble hat, shouting at the one drunken steward who was still there from the previous game. I had gotten myself into the predicament the night before, when a Hotel that would put Faulty Towers to shame had chucked me out for running around the dinning area with nothing on, apart from two old Christmas decorations dangling from my hairy nads. And so I had spent the night in the Blues car park, slowly turning blue with my bollocks creeping up into my lower chest. Never again would I drink three bottles of Vodka, with eight bottles of whisky as a chaser. The steward still wasn't responding to my kicking him, not even a full chorus of "Your a FIREWALKER! twisted FIREWALKER!" seemed to dislodge his brain cells. My Birthday celebrations were slowly turning into a nightmare, I had no money, no clothes and the last time I had seen my keys they were stuck in some girls arse, as she thought she was a car and was trying to start herself up. So I decided to take refuge at my second home. As I Started to wonder about, I tried to decide what my next move should be, when in the corner of my eye I saw an old woman shuffle into the ground through the Main Stand. I thought it would be a good idea to follow her, if she knows a way in then



Paul McGrath recently.

"Look here bitch! I'm no

maybe I might be able to get to a phone in there. As I walked out onto the pitch, I saw the old woman standing in the middle of it. She was looking up into the sky waving a large "Wurzel Gummage" doll, with a picture of Gary Newbon's face on the front. It was made even more suspicious by the fact that she was shouting "VOODOO! VOODOO! VOOOOOOOOOODOOOOO!!!!

Things were afoot (And my feet were freezing). "Oy! haggered old cow! what you doing!" I shouted. She turned around and started to laugh at my over hanging beer (Vodka, Whiskey, Perno, Hooch and anything else alcoholic) belly. I was not impressed.

"Look here! old witch looking bitch, I'm not in the best of moods, so you'd better tell me why you've got a Wurzel Gummage doll with Gary Newbon's face on!"

"Fuck off! or I'll turn you into Gareth Southgate!"

That was enough to make Arnold Schwarzenegger piss his pants and run, but since I was in a pretty bad situation I took the risk of being really fucking ugly.

"I'm warning you maddam, if you are not forth coming with some information, I will be forced to show you my arse and a hairy sight it is too!" this made her think for a few seconds. "Look ere Michulin Maaan, I'm trying to curse this ere football ground, using satan and voodoo. So would you mind pissing off, I'm fucking busy!". I farted and nearly shit in my already off white underwear. Was this the famous cursing Gypo who has forsaken Birmingham City? I couldn't control my emotions.

"Is it YOOOOOU!! the Gypo who has ruined a whole city's footballing dreams, the one factor of all those embarrassing F.A. cup defeats, the woman who has made us never win anything decent. The woman who has made us bounce up and down the divisions for fuck knows how many years!!!!! it's you isn't it ay, it's bloody YOU! Mrs VOOODOOOOOO!"

"Nope"

"Oh, all right then"

This took me back, thinking that I had just made a complete prat out of myself by verbally attacking some nutty old bag lady. "No my love, that was my sister. I've since taken over the cursing contract of the Newbon's. You see 130 years ago Gary's Great Grandfather made a pact with the Devil to keep on cursing Birmingham City for the rest of eternity, because they wouldn't give him a job as a Firewalker steward. The most prestigious stewarding job in the game. So Gary's Great Grandfather made a contract with my Grandmother to curse the ground once a year for the rest of eternity". So this explained why after Christmas, things always seemed to get worse!

I had a choice of two things; 1) kill her with a sudden blow from my toxic breath. 2) Offer her anything that she wanted, so that she would stop cursing the place. I decided on the latter, and after some serious negotiating we came to a deal. I would have to have sex with her once a year for the rest of my life and she would stop using Voodoo at St. Andrews (You have no idea what I've got myself in to). And so I wondered through town hung over with just my pants on, thinking "I may have gotten rid of the curse, but it probably won't make us any better". Bollocks!

e! You old witch looking
t in the best of moods...

Wake Up Blue has been accused of being sexist, completely male orientated and ignoring women's views. We plead guilty. But this issue we open up new ground and introduce our first regular female columnist **BLEU ROYALE**. We do take this oppurtunity apologise to our loyal male following for having a bird writing for us but as that comic Harry Hill says 'thing's change'...

As a fan, I would like to think that professional footballers are footballers because of their love for the game, But if I'm honest, I think that's probably a load of bollocks. They may start out thinking that way, but when stardom occurs, along with wads of money and inevitable groupies, the opportunity for free, frequent, sex with a string of fawning, bimbo beauties has got to be a bigger attraction than playing football, especially when normally they wouldn't stand a hope in hell of attracting a good looking woman.

In most footballer's defence, the fact is, that the majority who seem to let fame swell their heads are hardly past the age of puberty and it's rampant hormones and therefore find that the lure of a good bonk is too good to ignore. It must be difficult at times to bring yourself back down to earth, be professional and concentrate on your part in the game, rather than chatting to your team mates about how good your latest leg over was.

If the tabloid press are to be believed, footballers seem to like to boast about their sexual prowess and it never ceases to amaze me how often their bonking partner claims that they were able to get it up, even after ten bottles of bubbly with tequila chasers and a 4 am fight at a night club. So how come, if they're so fit, they don't look it? How come hardly any of them are good looking and how come most of them become follicley challenged at a very young age, just like John Frain? It must be the

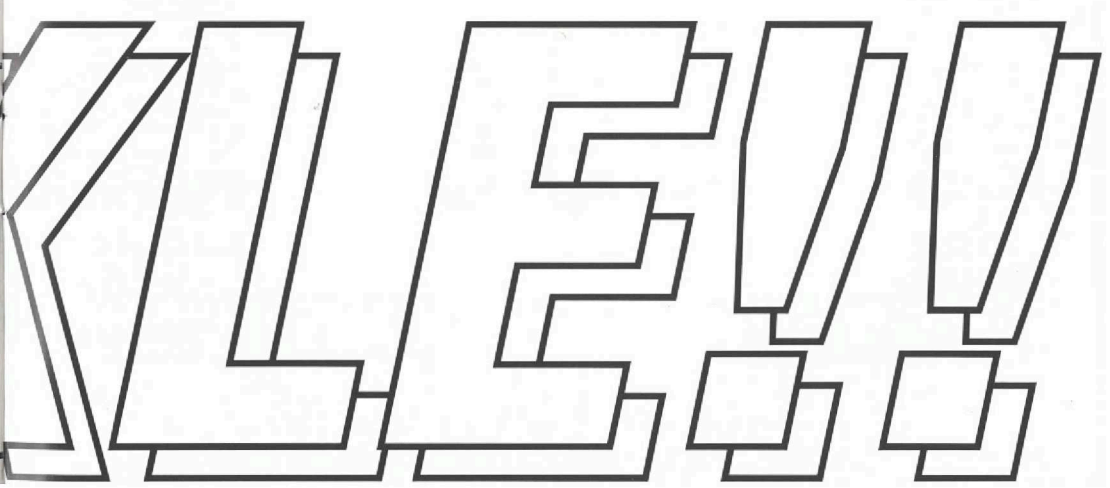
DUBIOUS TACK

stresses of the game that does it, or perhaps it's all that masculine testosterone surging through their veins with such volume and force that it causes their hair to fall out.

So it comes as no surprise, with the amount of virility oozing around football grounds, that I have noticed footballers, (and in the case of the Blues, Breeny and Horny!!! especially), frequently displaying, on the pitch, a genitally connected and immensely popular, male past time- 'the adjusting your tackle game', which is played especially just before kick off and at any other opportune or even inopportune moment before, during and after the game. I would have thought that in order to avoid the necessity for this blatant, genital, juggling act and to help keep things itch and chaff proof and snug as a bug, they would wear a jock strap, but come to thick of it, most men are obsessed with adjusting their tackle at inappropriate moments anyway, so I suppose footballers, even in jock straps are no different.

Which brings me to another point, why do footballers wear cycling shorts under their loose squad shorts? What is their purpose? I know these lycra, figure huggers, are usually nicely colour co-ordinated, (one of the F.A rules presumably), but surely they're not worn just as a fashion statement. I suspect that given the apparent size of most footballers egos, it's a ploy to enable the wearer to coyly, but boastingly suggest, that his enveloped tackle is far too huge to be sufficiently restrained by a mere, small, hammock-like structure like a jock strap or a pair of 'Y' fronts and bearing this in mind, I also suspect that if the Blues squad get round to reading this themselves, there'll be more than Michael Johnson wearing cycling shorts next week.

"if the Blues squad get round to reading this themselves, there'll be more than Michael Johnson wearing cycling shorts next week."



With more courses than Barry Fry bought strikers, we know we have something for you...

Call us and see...

East Birmingham College
Garretts Green Lane, Birmingham, B33 0TS

Telephone (0121) 743 4471

WAKE UP BLue

'Oasis' Blues

Even T.F. didn't look this good in 'The Classic'!

NO BADGE? NO NAME? NO NEED!

The Number... The Classic

*****NEW RANGE*****

The following shirts are also now available.
V-Neck 50's Long Sleeve, Round Neck- Short Sleeve, Away versions of 50's tops i.e. White with Blue Trim. 50's V-Neck with Collar.
Also coming soon our new S.O.T.V range....
Enquiries call 0121 244 6116 or 040207 1967

CREDITCARD ORDERS
(0121) 244 6116, or 0402 071967

VISA DELTA MasterCard

	SIZE (DELETE)		QUANTITY	PRICE
50's SHORT SLEEVED V-NECK	XL	L		£22.99
50's LONG SLEEVED ROUND NECK	XL	L		£24.99
'THE CLASSIC' *	XL	L		£26.99
'OASIS' STYLE BLUES T-SHIRT	XL	L		£10.99

Postage rates (1st class post)-*Please add £2.00 per item*
Please make all cheques payable to "*WAKE UP BLUE*", with name and address on back.
Send orders (with your name and address) to the usual address
*-Can be ordered without number.

Total
£ .

No Formal Qualifications?

Don't worry, if you have enthusiasm and commitment, we can offer you a route into Higher Education.

Full/part-time degree, HNC and HND courses in:

*** Business & Finance**
*** Applied Software Engineering**
*** Applied Automotive Engineering**
*** Computer Studies**
*** Environmental Technology**
*** Labour Studies**
*** Building Studies - Design & Production**

Over 21?

We have one year Access to Higher Education courses in:

*** Business Studies**
*** Health Studies**
*** Social Sciences**
*** Computing & IT**
*** Teacher Training**
*** Social Work**

(formal qualifications are not required)

Call Jacquie Mills-Tolley
on 0121 694 5000 Ext 5118 or
Dave Sutton (Access Courses) on 0121 694 5060

We also offer FREE training for unemployed in Storekeeping and Fork Lift truck Driving

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM COLLEGE

This College is an exempt charity which exists to provide education & training services of the highest quality

REGISTERED FIRM

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION OF CERTIFICATION BODIES

FS29710

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Hall Green Centre
Cole Bank Road
Hall Green
Birmingham
B28 8ES

Tel: 0121 694 5001

Tait what you do...

it's the way that you do it!

Remember these words? "I think when Hunty comes back, that will be the deciding factor really. I think my future will be decided one way or another." Yep, they are from our EXCLUSIVE Wake Up Blue interview with Taity from weeks ago. Last Saturday -Tait dropped, Hunt in. Tuesday- Tait demands transfer. Never mind the Mail, Mercury or Xtra you know where you heard it first. Wake Up Blue- streetwise, streets ahead.

John Tandy explains why he thinks letting him go would be a mistake...

If you read the interview with Paul Tait in the last issue of 'Wake Up Blue', you'd be left with a pretty strong impression that if he's not actually On His Bike, then he's certainly pumping up the tyres and oiling the chain.

Well if ever that happens, I for one think it would be a) a crying shame and b) yet another example of Blues failure to nurture and develop talent when we find it.

What do you think of, when someone says 'Paul Tait'? Well apart from broken glass?

For me it's two things. One is the battling. The way the guy will run a mile to put in a crunching tackle and win the ball, whether it's mopping up in defence or getting something started up front (and let's face it, with half the teams he's had around him, it's been a question of 'get the ball for yourself cos no bigger else'll pass to you')

Thing is, a player who's that combative and at the same time that skinny, is always going to get injured. Look at all those skinny guys running around in the reruns of seventies games on UK Gold. They're Paul Tait, they are. Today's athletes are bigger and stronger. With modern diets and fitness training facilities, it's not that difficult to build up a player's physique and strength. Which makes you wonder why no-one at the Blues bothered to work on that with him years ago?

The other thing I always think of with Paul Tait, is the goals. He's scored some crackers down the years (he's the only player in the squad who's scored a winning goal at Wembley)- and yet we've never used him as a striker.

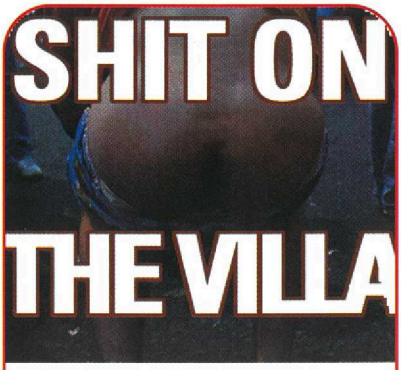
More often than not it's been because we've needed him to shore up the wide open spaces in midfield, but since we've got a halfway decent midfield these days (apparently), why not give Taity a run up front? At best it could be the making of a player and a promotion challenge. At worst, he's not going to be any less effective than Furlong, Newell, Otto and several of the other 'strikers', we've had to live with lately.

We've been flogging off our decent players for as long as I can remember. In the past it was always because we had to, to survive. But things have changed; that's not the case any longer. So it's about time we started looking after our decent players instead, and (as they say in the business) start optimising our human resource potential.

Alternatively, we could always sell him to Stoke. Like we did with Graham Potter. Richard Forsyth. Simon Sturridge...

TO ADD YOUR NAME OR YOUR MATES NAMES TO THE SCROLL OF HONOUR, ***CALL 0121 244 6116***

on a free!



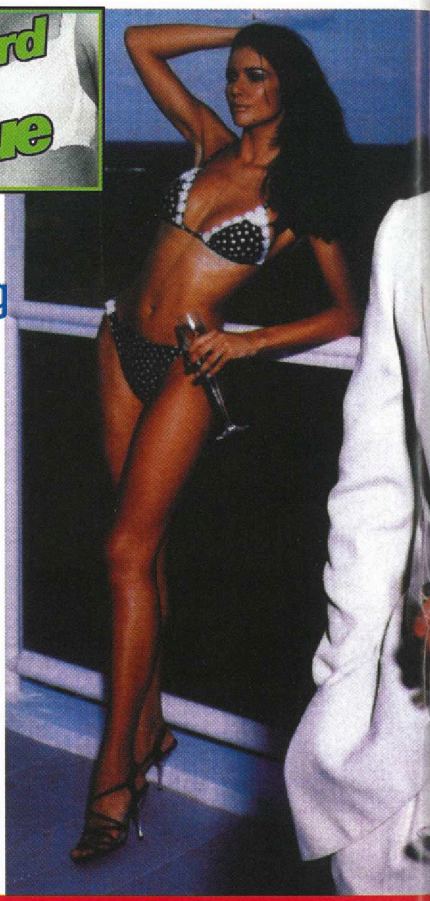
Brought to you this issue by....

Chunky Allen
Ian Dawson
Ian Garratt
Chris Garratt
Nam Qureshi
Jon Fernandez
Mick 'McVic'
Pete Vine
Gary Bell
Aiden Crump
Trevor Williams
P.J
Chris Bone Docherty
Marshy
Chris Marsh
Tony Fay
Ian Jolly
Martin Beesley
Billy 'The Stick' Chance
Dan Phillips
Matt Ramsden

WAKE UP Blue

Will Price of Newtown is the lucky winner of a Blues 'Oasis' T-shirt after correctly answering last weeks question. To win the video reviewed opposite send in your answer to the following question- How many more pages of colour does Wake Up Blue have, than the other blues fanzines put together?

Billy Blue's wife relaxing at the Wake Up Blue Birthday party...



Blue thought for the day...

CHRIS EVANS IS AN OVERPAID GINGER TWAT

Blues Reviews

"INTO THE BLUE" -VIDEO REVIEW

With the production values that would put "Live! T.V." and Ed wood to shame, I was pleasantly surprised with the latest official Birmingham City £14.99 " cor blimey governor, that much considering that it's taped on a dodgy £1.99 Latif and Son bargain bin special tapes " video, released in all the club shops just in time for Christmas. Unlike a few seasons ago when the club decided to try and rip us all off, by bringing out a "Half-season Review Video" which was just somebody's collection of the highlights on "Goals Extra", this video threw me back by actually having content. Into the blue is a 60 minute video containing interviews with the Gold Brothers, Karren Brady, Trev, a handful of players (The production team obviously tried to keep the nutter's away from the camera) and David Sullivan being interviewed for about two minutes in what looks like a Hotel lobby. Plus a couple of those handy goals extra bits to waste time. The thing that made me nearly choke on my dinner, was when looking at the rather crap box (Well it does have a picture of Paul Furlong on the front trying to head a ball just before he falls over, or maybe having a stroke just after realising that he's crap) I'd expected a tour of the catering staff making pies, because of the cover tag being "We take you behind the scenes on match day". Instead we are treated to quite an insightful interview with the Gold brothers, about there up bringing and how they have become multi millionaires, though short, made me forget for a moment that they are not walking money bags but human beings. Trevor and David go through the usual media talk, repeating the things that they have said so many times that it has almost become expected and Karren talks about her life being surrounded by football. The pre-match scenes are also short but sweet and only made me think that the whole thing could of been so much better, if they had spent the little extra money and by making it longer, spending a little more time on each subject. On the whole the video is a pleasant mish-mash of interviews, goals and a behind the scenes look at St. Andrews. Its worth watching just to see Ian Bennet forget what position he plays!

A tiny midget of a watch, a rampant **DOMINGUEZ!**.

WUB

RATINGS

RICHIE MORAN: shit

DEAN PEER: limited

BRIAN ROBERTS: o.k

DOMINGUEZ: good

T.F: the dogs bollocks

BLUE print

Send your letters to *Blue print* at *Wake up Blue, 137 Custard Factory, Gibb Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B9 4AA.* Please include your home address or contact number for correspondance.

BOOZA

Dear Blueprint,
I was wondering whether you knew of anything good for a hangover?

Howard Kendall
Sheffield

Drinking very heavily the night before usually does the trick Howard.

EVEN FURTHER OUT

Dear Blueprint,
Q-What do you do if you see a fireman?

A-Put it out man!

Ricardo Otto

Stop writing to us with these crap gags please.

BOING BOING BLUES!

Dear Blueprint,
Well it's been a few months since I last dropped you a line, and in that time WUB would appear to be going from strength to strength.

The article "Forever Blue" in Issue 14 got me thinking, who would you support if the Boys in blue were no longer? Well logically you would probably have to choose a team fairly local.
Right, well I would not piss on Villa Park even if it was on fire. Mind you if I had a couple of gallons of petrol handy I would like to donate it to our neighbours, providing the brain dead one-eyed bastards were inside! So that I fear would rule me out of becoming a Villa Fan! Coventry has never struck me as a "football city", Wolves Christ! I mean how could anybody follow a team with that arsehole McGhee in charge! Then there's dear old Walsall, but you might aswell support Kidderminster really. Derby, Leicester never made much appeal, so I suppose Notts Forest when T.F and K.B were there was feasible but that was a long time ago! So who the fuck can you support? Well it' s West Brom. Now before you think I am pissed out of my brains please allow me to explain- when I was a young lad in the senior school in (1959!) the Villa played the last game of the season, at The Hawthorns, Villa had to win the game otherwise they would be relegated, the Villa were winning 1-0 and then in the last minute Ronnie Allen let fly from 30 yards and it hit the back of the net 1-1, they kicked off and the ref blew the whistle! The Villa were down! It was a great feeling, I think it was better than my first orgasm!! At school next day about five of us all got the cane because took the piss out this one Villa fan so much

he burst in to tears and ran home to tell his mom! There may be a few language problems but the Baggies have got a few ex Blues players and its not all that far, so there it is then!

Until next time, as I have explained due to the nature of my work I shall have to remain "*Alpha Zulu*" (Code One-Two)

You're not Alan Jones are you?

SWEDISH MAD MAN

Hello "Wake Up Blue"
My name is Johan Akinder and I live in Kalmar, Sweden. In Sweden my favorite team is Kalmar FF which played in Swedish division two.
In England is my team Birmingham City which I trying follow so plenty de go.
Often become de on the Swedish tv-text and newspaper. Hatest Birmingham City where on Swedish television where in the Cup against Liverpool 0-0 in Birmingham (St Andrews) I wonder if you should send my a copy of "Wake up Blue" Also I make a fanzine (Fredriksskans Supportern) so fast then is finished.

My address is Johan Akinder

Fatabursvagen 19a
39353
S-Kalmar

Sweden
Thanks!

This letter ranks as one of the best we've ever had and brought a smile to our faces. "so fast then is finished"- fucking marvellous! If anyone fancies writing to this mad Swedish Bluenose just use the above address.

MENSA MAN!

Dear Blueprint,
I noticed in the last issue that Junior Billy Blue said he went to Oldham. Well as we all know that game never took place. Does that mean Billy Blue and his son are not real characters then or what?
Yours Brendan Moffitt

What do you think you thick twat.

WE DON'T KNOW!

Dear Blueprint,
How many Everton players are we going to sign by the end of the season?
Yours B. Grant
Leamington

We don't know but I hope Duncan Ferguson's one of them.

WIERDO!

Dear Blueprint,
For a number of months now I have been having touble in getting to sleep, as I continually feel that I am going to spontaneously combust. Is this normal?
Yours L. Nimoy
Castle Vale

No.

Next "Wake Up Blue"
SAT 8th FEB

Versus
Pathetic
Portsmouth